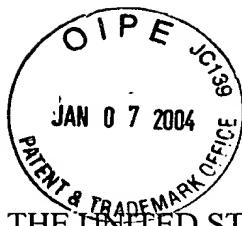


1247-0849-6VF



"RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116-
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE EXAMINING
GROUP 1732"

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF : :

Jean-Paul DEBALME, et al. : EXAMINER: LEE, E.

SERIAL NO.: 09/668,291 : :

RCE FILED: March 21, 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1732

FOR: PROCESS FOR :
MANUFACTURING A
COMPOSITE TAPE FORMED
FROM REINFORCING FIBRES
AND FIBRES OF A
THERMOPLASTIC ORGANIC
MATERIAL

RECEIVED
JAN 12 2004
TC 1700

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Official Action dated October 7, 2003, please reconsider the above-identified application in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-6 and 20-26 are presently active in this case.

Claims 1-6 and 20-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loubinoux et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,294,036) in view of Angell, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,037,284) and Kuts (U.S. Patent No. 2,954,815). For the reasons discussed below, the Applicants traverse the obviousness rejection.

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The Applicants submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established in the present case based upon the presently cited reference, because the references do not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. (See MPEP 2143.) For example, the cited references do not teach or suggest a process for manufacturing a composite tape characterized in that the sheet is made to pass through a rotating impregnation device including heated rollers, as recited in Claim 1. Furthermore, the cited references do not teach or suggest a process for manufacturing a composite tape comprising the step of passing the sheet through a rotating impregnation device including heated rollers, as recited in Claim 20. Accordingly, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the obviousness rejection.

The Official Action notes that the Loubinoux et al. reference does not disclose a rotating impregnation device that maintains the temperature of the sheet at a temperature at which the thermoplastic is malleable and distributes the thermoplastic uniformly and impregnates the fibers. The Official Action cites the Angell, Jr. et al. reference for the teaching of a rotating impregnation device. The Official Action states in response to previous arguments submitted that the Angell, Jr. et al. reference teaches using a rotating impregnation device including heated rollers based upon the teachings set forth at column 4, lines 42-48. The Applicants submit that the Angell, Jr. et al. reference does not disclose the heated rollers recited in Claims 1 and 20 of the present application.

As noted in the Official Action, the Angell, Jr. et al. reference describes at column 4, lines 42-48, that “[t]he resin portion of the impregnated tow is maintained in a molten condition while passing through the kneader rolls (23) and compression rolls (24) by applying external heating, such as by use of radiant heaters or heated air. The coating area may also be

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enclosed as a further air to maintaining an elevated temperature environment.” The Angell, Jr. et al. reference does not state that the rollers in the impregnation device are heated, but rather the Angell, Jr. et al. reference merely states that the resin portion is maintained in a molten condition by applying external heating. Heated rollers are not disclosed or suggested by the Angell, Jr. et al. reference. In fact, the Angell, Jr. et al. reference refers specifically to external heating of the resin portion of the impregnation tow, rather than heated rollers used to heat a sheet. The rolls themselves are not described as being heated in the Angell, Jr. et al. reference. The present application describes utilizing heating elements of the apparatus (1) including the rotating rolls of the impregnation device (80) to provide heating to the sheet. (See, e.g., page 10, lines 30-36, of the present application.)

Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Angell, Jr. et al. reference does not teach or suggest a rotating impregnation device including heated rollers, as recited in Claims 1 and 20.

Furthermore, the Applicants submit that the Kuts reference does not supplement the deficiencies in the teachings of the Loubinoux et al. and Angell, Jr. et al. reference discussed above.

Thus, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of Claims 1 and 20.

Claims 2-6 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claim 1 from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed, taught, nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of Claim 1.

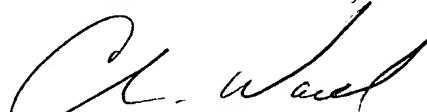
Application Serial No.: 09/668,291
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Claims 21-26 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claim 20 from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed, taught, nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of Claim 20.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

OBLON
SPIVAK
McCLELLAND
MAIER
&
NEUSTADT
P.C.

RE: Application Serial No.: 09/668,291

Applicants: Jean-Paul DEBALME, et al.

RCE Filed: March 21, 2003

For: PROCESS FOR MANUFACTURING A
COMPOSITE TAPE FORMED FROM
REINFORCING FIBRES AND
FIBRES OF A THERMOPLASTIC
ORGANIC MATERIAL

Group Art Unit: 1732

Examiner: LEE, E.

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

Request for Reconsideration (After Final)

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher D. Ward".

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